



# The TURNTABLE

November 2010

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

## Important Dates To Remember

### **Ladies Luncheon**

Thursday, November 4  
At Noon, this month at  
Be Wok & Sushi next to  
Cost U Less in Sonora  
Call Marge@533-4595

### **Annual Railtown Ladies Christmas & Ornament Exchange and Luncheon**

Thursday, December 2  
At Wilma Bushart's  
Home 190 Apple Valley  
Road, Sonora, Potluck  
Call Wilma for info @  
209-588-9833

### **November Birthdays**

2 Jessica Davilla  
5 Ron Jeske  
8 Tom Grenache  
9 Mike Warzee  
12 Jeanette Foster  
16 Wendell Cushman  
17 Kurt Anderson  
19 Karen Eithier  
20 Warren Smith  
21 Doris Warburton  
23 Charlene Ratzlaff  
27 Wilma Bushart  
29 Leroy Bushart

### **Starlight Express Meetings 1pm**

Tuesday, Nov. 9  
Tuesday, Nov. 16

### **Starlight Express Volunteer Work Day**

Tuesday Nov.23  
Wednesday Nov.24  
8:30am until ?  
(bring a bag lunch)

### **Annual Christmas Party And Potluck**

Sunday, December 19  
@ Senior Center, 540  
Greenley Rd., Sonora  
Starts at 6pm  
Call Laverne for details  
About what to bring for  
the potluck. 533-4080

## **End of The Year Wrap Up Meeting**

From 10-Noon on Saturday, November 6th, we will be having an end-of-season Railroad Operations meeting (this is also our quarterly RR Ops meeting).

This is a good time to discuss strengths and weaknesses of our program, and will help us to plan winter training for new and continuing volunteers.

From 1-4 (ish) on that same day, please join us for a Saturday work day. We will be decorating cars for Santa's Starlight, as well as other projects. If there is a strong interest in weekend work days, we may add more throughout the winter season. Bring a bag lunch if you intend to stay for the entire day.

## **"Sharpening the Saw"**

You've probably hear the parable about "sharpening the saw"? "Well why don't you take a break for a few minutes and sharpen that saw? I'm sure it would go a lot faster." "I don't have time to sharpen the saw," the man says emphatically. "I'm too busy sawing!" Sharpening the saw is about renewing yourself - physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally. We are fortunate at Railtown that our off season gives us a chance to renew and recharge. And also a chance to reflect and look for opportunities for improvement. Towards that end, we are requesting that all of our paid and volunteer staff who conduct any visitor service programming (car hosts, tour guides, greeters, anyone who explains or teaches visitors), to please fill out a self-evaluation of your "program" and submit it to Dave Rainwater. Completion of evaluations is required by our department, but it is also a good way to reflect on opportunities for self-improvement. We strive to complete supervisory evaluations, but often don't get as many done as we like due to staffing constraints, but you'll be hearing about this more in the next season. For now, please check your mail box and help us and help yourself by completing a self-evaluation. We will also be using these evaluations to develop our continuing volunteer training program for 2011.





## Volunteer of The Month– Ron White

On any given weekend (especially Saturdays) you'll find Ron working as our Stationmaster and on any Tuesday you can find him cleaning the Pullman cars after a busy weekend of excursion trains. Ron is one of a small group of our dedicated Stationmasters (along with Cliff Hughes, David Deutsch, Dottie Bolander). A California native, Ron grew up around the railroad in Sacramento. His father was a ticketing agent 43 years for the Southern Pacific in the old depot building in Sacramento (where Amtrak is now). He has been a life long enthusiast with his own HO scale model railroad. Ron retired and moved with his wife Linda to Modesto. He was looking for opportunities to volunteer in 2003. "It was either the Sacramento Railroad Museum or Railtown. After my first visit to Railtown, my mind was made up." He started right away as a Car Host and has been a Stationmaster for the last few years. Ron worked in the retail business for over 40 years, and as a manager traveled quite a bit up and down the West coast. When asked what he likes best about Railtown Ron echoes a sentiment many of us feel about our State Park, "I like meeting the visitors. It makes it worthwhile when they say thank you for being here and keeping this place open." All of us would also like to say thank you Ron for being here.

## 2011 Dates Announced– Mark Your Calendars

January 22 Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner 5pm Sonora Elks Lodge

January 29 All Hands Meeting For Continuing Volunteers, Jamestown Community Hall

February 12 New Volunteer Open House 9am-1pm (Carriage Room)

February 26 New Volunteer Orientation 9am-3pm (Carriage Room)

March 19 & 20 GCOR Training

for all Engine Crew volunteers, Jamestown Community Hall 8am-4pm

March 26 Season Preview & Orientation 11am-1pm Staff & Volunteer train ride,  
2-3pm pre season train ride open to the public

April 2-3 Excursion Train Season Opens

(All Tuolumne, Calaveras & Mariposa County residents ride free!)

*"Interpretation is part education, part inspiration,  
part entertainment. It is a sharing of knowledge,  
enthusiasm, appreciation, and wonder"  
It is a profession; it is an art.*



## Do you have a great idea?

### Here is a checklist to help get your idea off the ground.

1. **Write your idea down.** The best way to get attention to your idea is to write it down. It doesn't have to be very detailed at all, but if Park staff has your idea in writing, your idea will be discussed during weekly staff meetings. Staff can assist you if all know what your intention is.
2. **Submit your written idea.** Give your written ideas to Marty Gerbasi, or directly to a staff member. If writing isn't your thing, sit down with Dave, Lisa, or Marty and they can write it up for you.
3. **Make sure your idea is preservation oriented.** Remember that your idea has to fit with the mission of the Park. This means our ideas must include the accurate portrayal of the steam railroading era in the region. The buildings, the environs, and the equipment must be preserved as best we can. Ideas that promote preservation are the ticket!
4. **Money is an issue.** Unfortunately, our resources are limited. An idea that promotes safety, generates revenue, or promotes cost avoidance will get a good review and the best shot at fruition.

**WAIT!** You will hear from park staff on the status of your submission, and from there you and the designated staff member for your project can work hand in hand. You should refrain from going ahead with a project until it has been reviewed, and staff can assist you.

### What ideas make a good fit?

**An Idea that is a Good Fit** is historically correct and proven to be so through documentation. Our responsibility to this site is to be stewards of its history and integrity, if we bring in items and create displays that are not original to the site and its history then we are telling a false story to the public. We have got to do the very best we can to keep it true.





**RAILTOWN 1897**  
State Historic Park

**PO Box 1250**

**Jamestown, CA 95327**

**Return Service Requested**



**TO:**

**Depot Store-** (209) 984-3953

**Docent Hotline-** (209) 984-4408

**Docent Site-** <http://Railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers/default.aspx>

**Railtown Blog-** [www.railtown1897.wordpress.com](http://www.railtown1897.wordpress.com)



### **Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information**

*Newsletter submissions: [RailtownNews@parks.ca.gov](mailto:RailtownNews@parks.ca.gov)*

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<b>George Sapp</b> , Railroad Restoration Lead Worker (DSLE)	774-6368	<a href="mailto:gsapp@parks.ca.gov">gsapp@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Kevin Zimmerman</b> , (DSLE)	557-0294	<a href="mailto:Kevin@obriensmarket.com">Kevin@obriensmarket.com</a>
<b>Ryan Richelson</b> , Maintenance Supervisor	984-3115	<a href="mailto:rrichelson@parks.ca.gov">rrichelson@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Rob Buchanan</b> , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-3115	<a href="mailto:rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov">rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Danny Taylor</b> , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-3115	<a href="mailto:dtaylor@parks.ca.gov">dtaylor@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Dave Rainwater</b> , Park Aid & Volunteer Coordinator	984-4408	<a href="mailto:darainwater@parks.ca.gov">darainwater@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Lisa Smithson</b> , State Park Curator I (DER)	984-8719	<a href="mailto:lsmithson@parks.ca.gov">lsmithson@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Ron White</b> , Crew Caller Car Hosts	551-7087	<a href="mailto:rbarryw@att.net">rbarryw@att.net</a>
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*Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request*